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Words Are CAtegorical



To Root,
to Toot,



to Parachute

What Is a Verb?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Jenya Prosmitsky

To Root,
to Toot,
to Parachute



What Is a Verb?



To Mary Kate, Jack, and Colin—
three "action" kids —B.P.C.

To my sister, Margarita
—J.P.

Verb: A word
that shows
action or being.



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Whether
you **Scale**
a Wall
or a fish,



Make
a design
on a
cup or a dish,



Take
out the
garbage,

or sharpen your
knife—



Verbs are a part
of your everyday life



To root,
to
toot,



to
parachute,

To play the
flutophone or
flute,





To dare,
defend,



deScend,
disturb—



If it's an action,
it's a Verb!

Verbs are words like **sing**
and **dance**,



Pray or **practice**,



preach or **prance**,





Toss and tumble, jump

and jam,

Whine and whisper,



sleep and slam.



So are **holler**, **help**,
and **hold**,



Whack and **stack** and **pack**
and **fold**,



Fix and
finish,



load and lift,



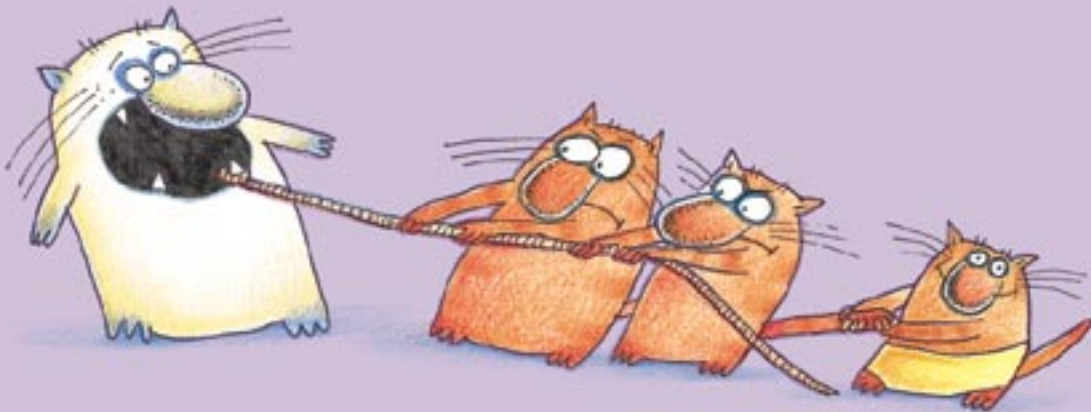
Hurry, Scurry,
shake, and sift.





So **take** a
present,

Send your
thanks,



Pull a tooth,
or **pull** some pranks,



Blow
a bubble,

Sew a
sleeve,

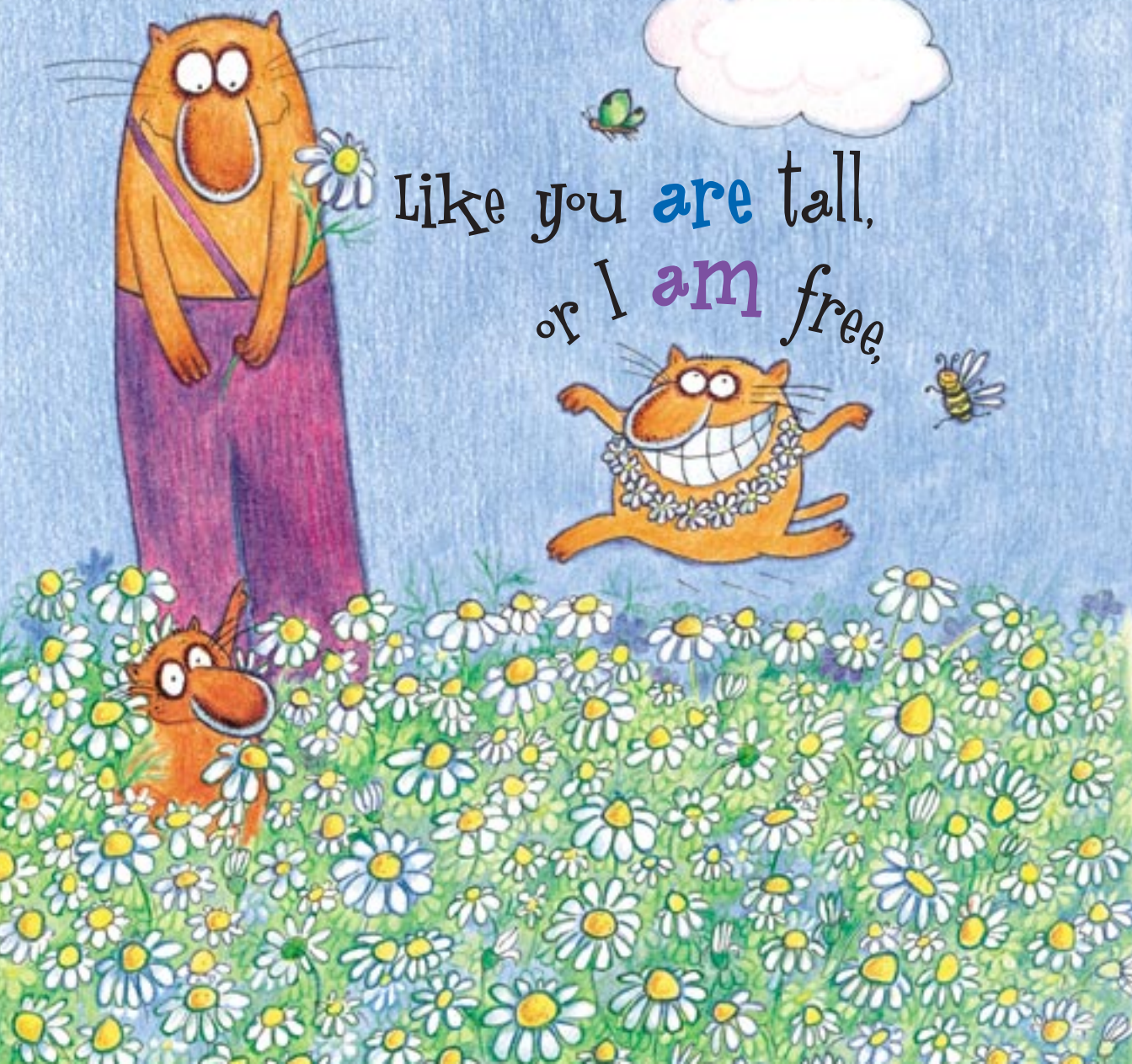


You'll use a **Verb** for each of these.



A Verb can take a form
of "be,"

Like you **are** tall,
or I **am** free,





That **is** fun,



It's **been**
great,



Were you the one
who **was** so late?



Punt or pass or shoot or
Score,



Swim or paddle,

pitch

or

pour,





Jog
or
juggle,



jig or leap,



Verbs can **tire**
you out a heap.

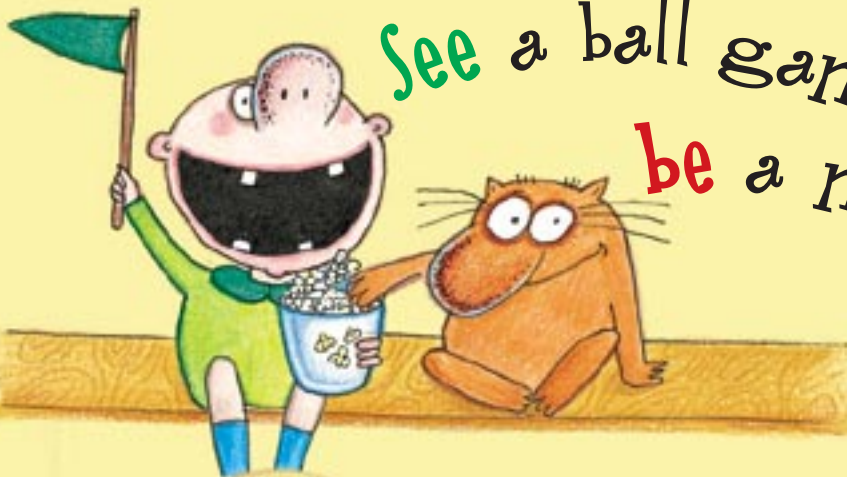


You can **crawl** or **fall**

or **pet**
your pooch,



See a ball game,
be a mooch,



Jump and slump



and
play it cool,



Hunt
and hike



So **pick** and **fiddle**, strum
and **stroke**,

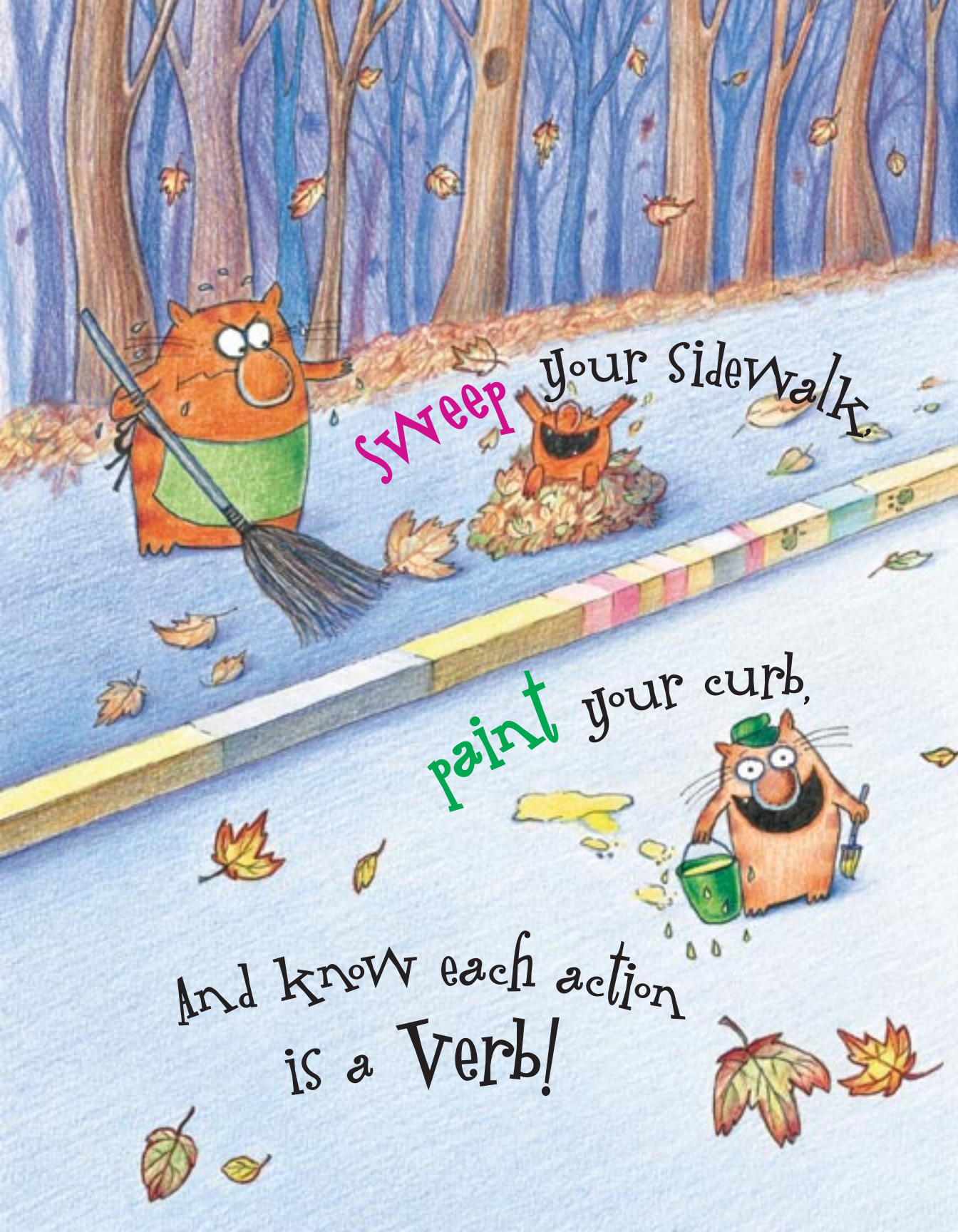


Tease and **teeter**,



Sob and **soak**,





Sweep your sidewalk.

Paint your curb,

And know each action
is a Verb!

Have and has belong here too,

Like

"I have

green eyes,



She
has
blue."





Or "Mindy **has** a
mini mutt."

These Verbs can tell us
who's got what!



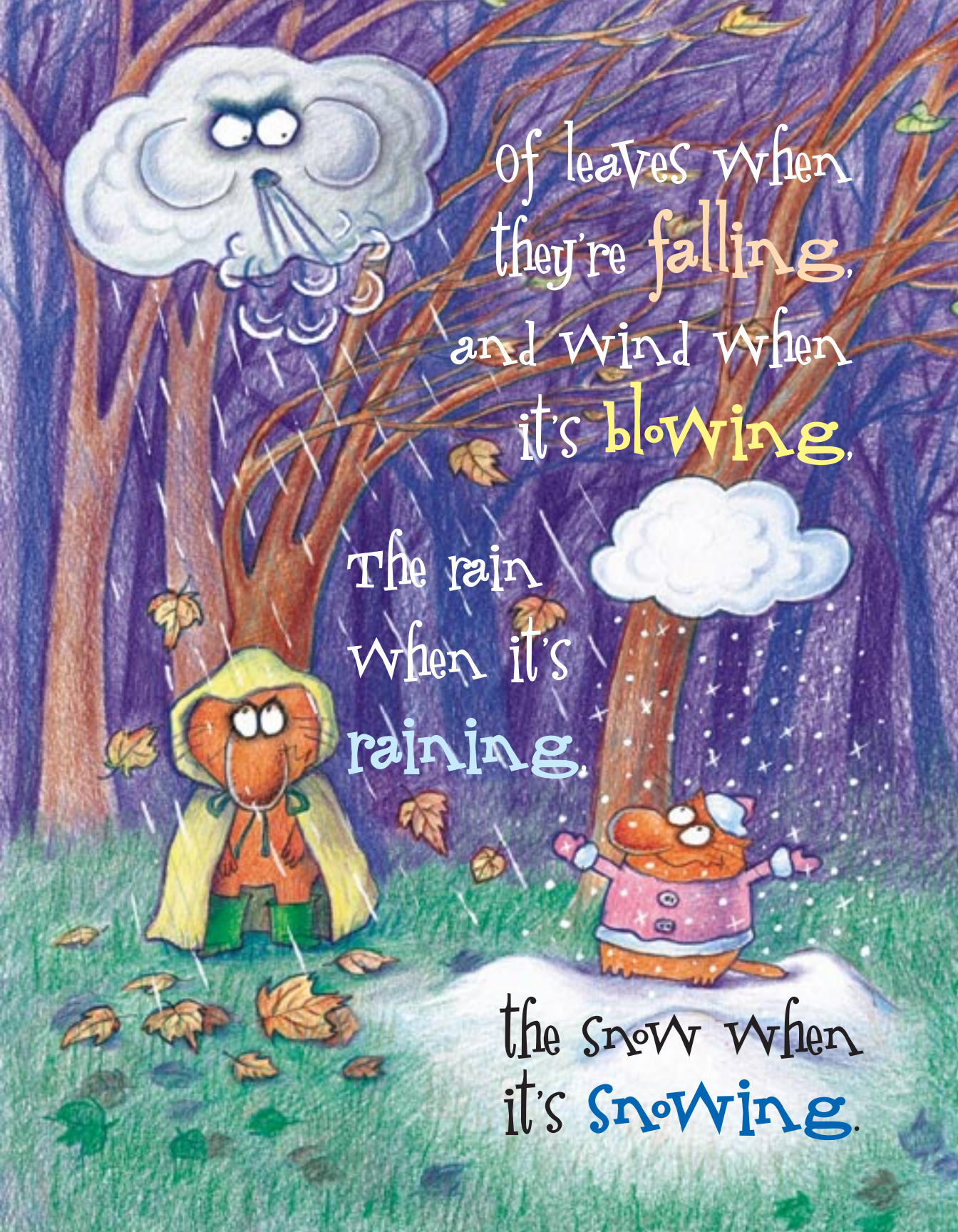
Verbs tell of ships
cruising,

dogs
snoozing, slime **oozing**,

They tell
of spies
spying,

guys **trying** and **losing**,





of leaves when
they're **falling**,
and wind when
it's **blowing**,

The rain
when it's
raining.

the snow when
it's **snowing**.

They tell us of dogs
that are **barking** or **sleeping**,



of cars that are **racing**,
or merely **beep-beeping**,



Of planes that
are **flying**,



and trains **choo-choo-choing**,

Aunt Edna

"oh-hi-ing,"

and Mom

"Toodle-oo-ing"—



of corn that is **popping**,



and singers **doo-wopping**,



and afterwards, **mopping**,



So, whether it's
dangerous,
dull, or superb,

Each sentence, you see,
simply must have a **Verb!**

A small orange cat wearing a yellow loincloth is running to the right, holding a sign that says "VERB POWER".

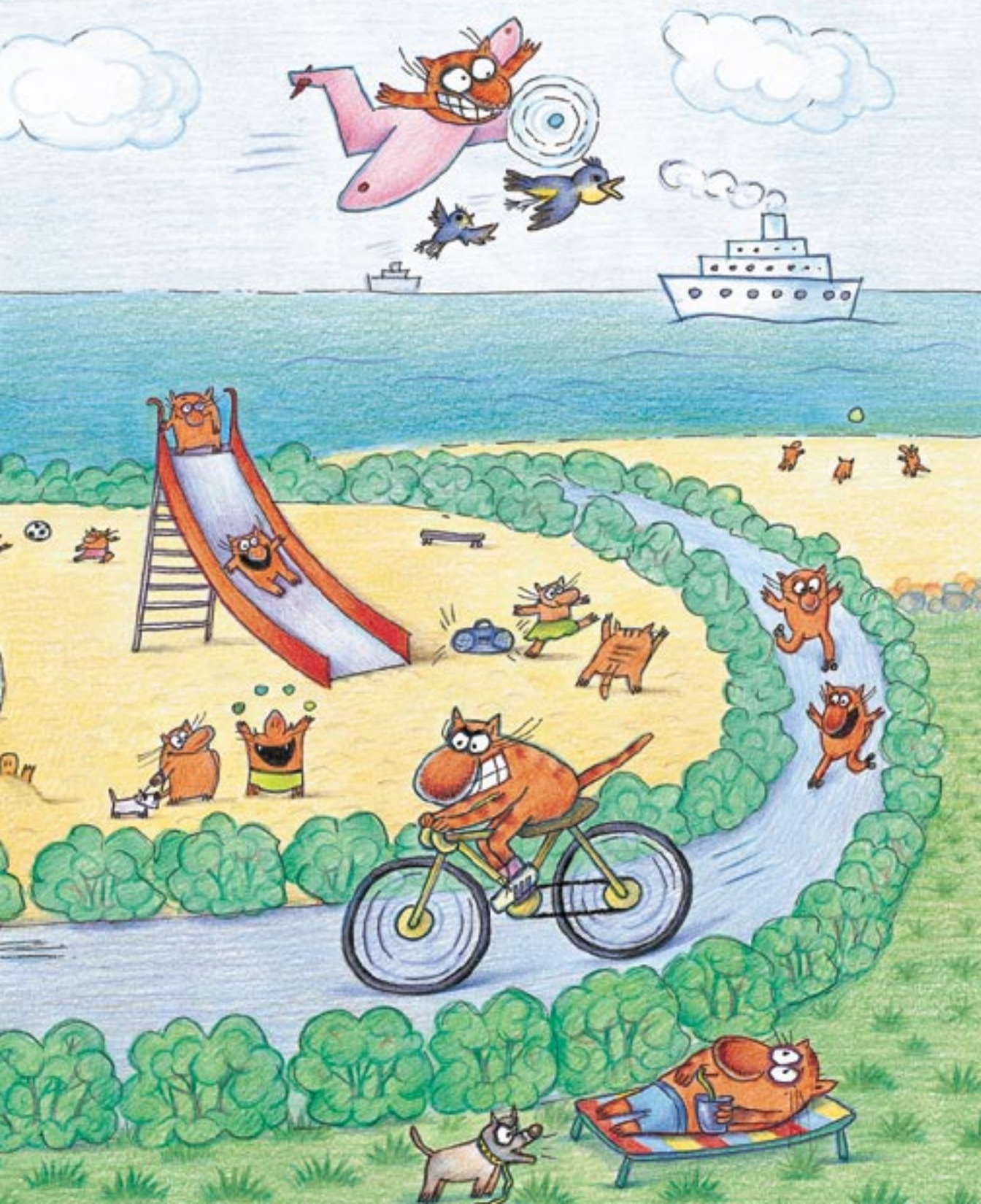
VERB
POWER

A small orange cat with a wide, toothy grin is holding a sign that says "VERBS ARE COOL".

VERBS
ARE COOL

So, what is a Verb?
Do you know?





ABOUT THE AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR

BRIAN P. CLEARY is the author of several other picture books, including A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What Is a Noun? and Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective? He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

JENYA PROSMITSKY grew up and studied art in Chisinau, Moldova, and lives in Minneapolis. Her two cats, Henry and Freddy, were vital to her illustrations for this book and the other **Words Are Categorical** books.

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This book is available in two editions:

Library binding by Carolrhoda Books, Inc., a division of Lerner Publishing Group
Soft cover by First Avenue Editions, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group
241 First Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401 U.S.A.

Website address: www.lernerbooks.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cleary, Brian P., 1959–

To root, to toot, to parachute : what is verb? / by Brian P. Cleary ;
illustrated by Jenya Prosmitsky.

p. cm. — (Words are categorical)

Summary: Rhyming text and illustrations of comical cats present numerous examples of verbs, from "toss and tumble," "jump and jam," to "whine and whimper," "sleep and slam."

eISBN 1-57505-548-1

1. English language—Verb—Juvenile literature. [1. English language—Verb.]
I. Prosmitsky, Jenya, 1974– ill. II. Title. III. Series: Cleary, Brian P., 1959– Words
are categorical.

PE1271.C58 1999

98-49569

428.2—dc21

Manufactured in the United States of America

3 4 5 6 7 8 - JR - 06 05 04 03 02 01